

Message Text

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46

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 CIEP-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SY-05 A-01 OPR-02 AID-05

SCCT-01 DHA-02 /069 W

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O R 231607Z AUG 75

FM USEMB BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE NIACT 2393

INFO USCINCSO QUARRY HTZ CZ

DIA/DOD

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUENOS AIRES 5679

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, ASEC, AR

SUBJECT: TENSIONS IN ARMED FORCES

1. TENSIONS WITHIN ARMED FORCES ARE REACHING CRITICAL POINT, STIMULATED PRINCIPALLY BY DISSENT OVER APPOINTMENT COL. DAMASCO TO INTERIOR MINISTRY WHILE STILL ON ACTIVE DUTY STATUS. COMMANDERS IN-CHIEF OF NAVY AND AIR FORCE REMAIN FLATLY OPPOSED, AS DO MAJORITY OF ARMY CORPS COMMANDERS. RELIABLE REPORT (WHICH APPEARS ALSO IN PRESS THIS MORNING) INDICATES FOREIGN MINISTER ROBLEDO SUGGESTED TO ARMY COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF NUMA LAPLANE YESTERDAY THAT LATTER RESIGN IN ORDER TO EASE CRISIS (INASMUCH AS GENERAL LAPLANE HAD GONE ALONG WITH APPOINTMENT OF DAMASCO WITHOUT CONSULTING HIS COUNTERPARTS).

2. UNLESS THERE IS SOME SOLUTION TO PROBLEM QUICKLY, INSTITUTIONAL CRISIS WITHIN ARMED FORCES MAY REACH DANGEROUS PROPORTIONS. SFR RECENT REPORT INDICATES ANTI-DAMASCO GENERALS HAVE DEMANDED SOLUTION BY MONDAY. SITUATION PROBABLY CANNOT BE DEFUSED BY ANYTHING LESS
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THAN RESIGNATION OF DAMASCO - POSSIBLY FOLLOWED BY THAT OF LAPLANE.

LATTER TWO, HOWEVER, BACKED BY MRS. PERON, COULD ATTEMPT TO SAVE THEMSELVES BY CALLING FOR DISMISSAL OF MASSERA, FAUTARIO AND CORPS COMMANDERS OPPOSED TO DAMASCO. IF THEY DO, THEY MAY SIMPLY TRIGGER REACTION OF REST OF MILITARY AGAINST THEM.

3. WHATEVER THE FINAL OUTCOME, NEXT FEW DAYS WILL BE ONES OF CONTINUED CRISIS FOR MRS. PERON'S GOVERNMENT, WHICH IS ALREADY WEAKENED BY SPLITS WITHIN THE PERONIST PARTY (LIKELY TO BE FURTHER EXACERBATED DURING PARTY CONGRESS SCHEDULED FOR THIS WEEKEND), ECONOMIC MALAISE AND RAMPANT TERRORISM. IN LATTER REGARD, TERRORIST ATTACKS OVER AUG 22 WEEKEND, INCLUDING SABOTAGE OF NAVY FRIGATE, PRESUMED MURDER OF MAJOR VALLE LARRABURRE (HELD PRISONER BY TERRORISTS

FOR OVER A YEAR), AND ASSASSINATION OF CAPT. KELLER EARLIER IN WEEK (PREVIOUSLY REPORTED) ARE FACTORS FURTHER IRRITATING MILITARY TEMPERS.
HILL

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Message Attributes

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